

THE REPORTERS COMMITTEE FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

February 9, 2005

The Honorable John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

The Reporters Committee greatly appreciates the efforts by you and your staff to amend the federal Freedom of Information Act and we enthusiastically support this measure.

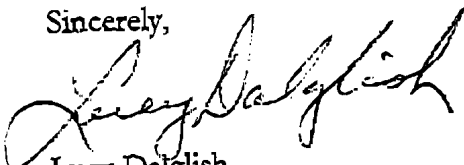
Although journalists play a major role in delivering information about the government to the public, their use of the Freedom of Information Act to obtain information has been crippled by extensive delay, by over-use of the exemptions to the act and, perhaps most importantly, by a pervasive lack of respect for open government laws among federal agency leadership.

The vague directions to the Department of Homeland Security in recent legislation designed to protect information about the "critical infrastructure" has further eroded the ability of reporters to explain if and how the government is protecting its citizens.

Your bill, if enacted, will greatly improve the enforcement of open records mandates, and the ability of the public to understand their government

If we can help in your efforts to improve the Freedom of Information Act, please call upon us to do so.

Sincerely,



Lucy Dalglish
Executive Director



Rebecca Daugherty
FOI Service Center Director

STEERING COMMITTEE

- SCOTT APPLEWHITE
The Associated Press
- ROSEMARY ARMAO
South Florida Sun-Sentinel
- CHARLES K. BABCOCK
The Washington Post
- CHIP BOK
Akron Beacon Journal
- EARL CALDWELL
Portland Radio
- REBECCA CARR
Cox Newspapers
- WALTER CRONKITE
CBS News
- GARY DECKELNICK
Ashbury Park Press
- RICHARD S. DUNHAM
Duluth Week
- ASHLEA ERFELING
Forster Magazine
- SARA FRITZ
Freelance
- STEPHEN GEIMANN
Bloomberg News
- FRED GRAHAM
Court TV
- JOHN C. HENRY
Freelance
- NAT HENTOFF
The Village Voice
- KAREN GRAY HOUSTON
Fox News
- PETER JENNINGS
ABC News
- STEPHEN LABATON
The New York Times
- TONY MAURO
American Lawyer Media
- DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times
- WILSON F. MINOR
Factual Reporting Service
- SANDRA PEDDIE
Newsday
- DAN RATHER
CBS News
- DAVID ROSENBAUM
The New York Times
- CRISTINE RUSSELL
Freelance
- TIM RUSSERT
NBC News
- GERALD F. SEIB
The Wall Street Journal
- CAROLE SIMPSON
ABC News
- SAUNDRA TORRY
USA Today
- JUDY WOODRUFF
CNN

*Affiliations appear only
for purposes of identification.*